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HUNGARIAN ARTICLE ON CIA IN VIETNAM

In his regular weekly column in the 10 August 1966 issue of Lobogo, illustrated weekly of the Hungarian Home Defense Sport Federation, Budapest, page 3, Ezredes (Colonel) Pal MAGYARI discusses the "Pacification Attempts of the Knights of the Cloak and Dagger."

The Hungarian author claims that the constant loss of territory in South Vietnam forced the Pentagon and the State Department to accept the sending of Lansdale to Saigon. The author claims that Lansdale inspired the book "The Ugly American"; that he was a CIA "king maker" in Manila; that he moved to Saigon during the Indo-Chinese war; that he picked Diem as leader; that his land-reform ideas ran counter to Diem's dictatorship, and that he, Lansdale, is generally known as the "crazy bastard". The article claims that Lansdale's villa near Saigon is a meeting place for the broadest circles in Saigon.

Lansdale, the article continues, invented and initiated the pacification program to win the rural population and that the US is spending nearly 100 million dollars on this program this year. Young men take a 10 week course in a training camp in Vung Tau which is run by the CIA. Groups of 80 are to pacify 900 of the 12,000 South Vietnamese villages during 1966. (The New York Times is quoted concerning the details of this program.)

The Hungarian author concludes that the "Saigon Peace Corps of Lansdale" might have succeeded earlier, but now the population has lost all faith in Saigon and hates the Americans. A photograph of Lansdale accompanies the article.